SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5310**

	8		7	4	9		2	
					2			6
		2	1		3			
2					8	3		
		6	9				4	
		3	6	2		5		7
				7			8	2
5			8		4			
				9			1	

TRICKY **B5310**

				2			9	
							5	
7	4				9			
6		5		1				3
9			6			5	7	2
		7					4	
	8		7	9				
					8		6	
2				4		7		

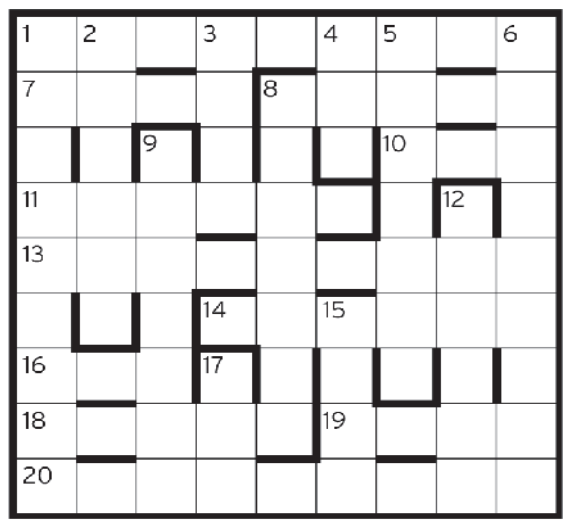
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

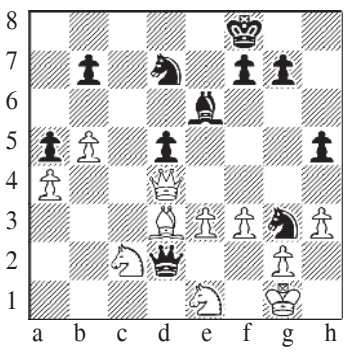
1 Finish completely (6,3)
7 Mark of an old wound (4)
8 Allude (5)
10 Go by air (3)
11 Dried grape (6)
13 Tin in tone (anag.) (9)
14 Sausage in a roll (3,3)
16 Fireman _, kids' TV show (3)
18 Notions (5)
19 A continent (4)
20 Protective skin lotion (9)



DOWN

1 Skin condition (9)
2 Chemical found in petrol (6)
3 Irritates (4)
4 That woman (3)
5 Football term (7)
6 Kitchen item (6,3)
8 Disastrous or destructive (7)
9 Road surfacing material (7)
12 Sweatshirt (6)
15 Former Russian ruler (4)
17 Used to be (3)

CHESS



WHITE TO PLAY
HINT: WIN A PIECE.

Solution:
1. Qh4! (threatens both 2. Qd8 mate! and 2. Qxg3) [Danielian-Koneru, '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 15;

Very good 23;

Excellent 30 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

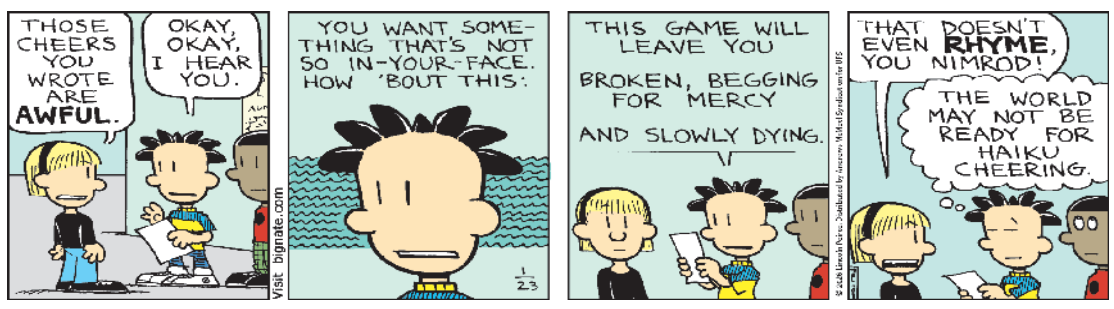
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

MITIGATOR

amir, argot, giro, girt, gram, grat, grim, grit, groat, grot, imitator, marg, mart, MITIGATOR, origami, ratio, riot, roam, rota, roti, taro, tarot, tart, tiro, tort, trait, tram, trig, trim, trio, trot

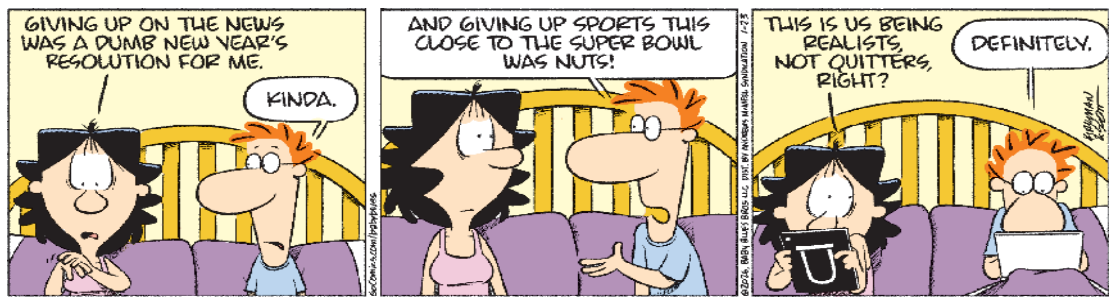
THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


THOSE CHEERS YOU WROTE ARE AWFUL.
OKAY, OKAY, I HEAR YOU.
YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT'S NOT SO IN-YOUR-FACE. HOW 'BOUT THIS:
THIS GAME WILL LEAVE YOU BROKEN, BEGGING FOR MERCY AND SLOWLY DYING.
THAT DOESN'T EVEN RHYME, YOU NIMROD!
THE WORLD MAY NOT BE READY FOR HAIKU CHEERING.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

BABY BLUES


GIVING UP ON THE NEWS WAS A DUMB NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR ME.
KINDA.
AND GIVING UP SPORTS THIS CLOSE TO THE SUPER BOWL WAS NUTS!
THIS IS US BEING REALISTS, NOT QUITTERS, RIGHT?
DEFINITELY.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	06:04pm	05:32pm	06:10pm	05:30pm	05:37pm	06:06pm
Sunrise	07:12am	07:06am	07:16am	06:58am	07:13am	07:22am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	4	14	Mostly Sunny	77	5	15	Cloudy		6	19	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	4	22	Mostly Sunny	72	6	21	Partly Cloudy		7	21	Partly Cloudy
Islamabad	3	11	AM Rain	69	5	14	Mostly Cloudy		7	18	Partly Cloudy
Lahore	4	15	AM Rain	68	5	15	Mostly Cloudy		6	18	Partly Cloudy
Multan	4	16	Sunny	98	4	15	Mostly Cloudy		7	19	Partly Cloudy
Peshawar	3	11	Partly Cloudy	93	4	14	Cloudy		6	18	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	-7	-2	Sunny	81	-2	6	Partly Cloudy		0	9	Partly Cloudy

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
TRANSIT

((TRANSIT: TRAN-sit: The conveyance of persons or things from one place to another.)

Average mark 23 words
Time limit 40 minutes

Can you find 33 or more words in TRANSIT?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — WEAKENS

wake	sake
waken	sane
wane	sank
weak	sawn
wean	seek
week	seen
ease	sewn
anew	skew
askew	snake
keen	sneak
knee	swan
knew	swank
news	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Improved
8 Starve
9 Prow
10 Ant
11 Ridley
13 Underwear
15 Owning
17 Els
18 Code
19 Nicest
20 Forecast.

DOWN

1 Imprudent
2 Marine
3 Prod
4 Otherwise
5 Vary
6 Erase
7 Detergent
12 Pandas
14 Disco
15 Over
16 Iowa.

METRO EVENTS

POETRY

An evening of poetry, music, and reflection at H.M Habib Auditorium, Habib University, at 6pm.

CONFERENCE

The inaugural session of a conference on 'Sustainable Green Energy, Environment & Digital Innovations' is organised at KIBGE Auditorium, University of Karachi, at 9:15am.

FESTIVAL

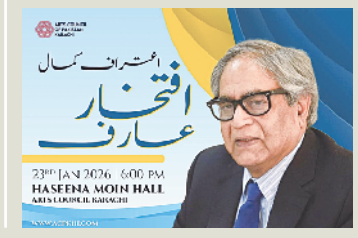
Mirza Ghalib in Karachi, a theatre play, is staged as part of the Awami Theatre Festival, at Auditorium II, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

EXHIBITION

A photography exhibition opens at Seminar Room, 5th floor, Iqra University, at 9am.

SESSION

A session on Iftikhar Arif, with moderator Mohammad Ahmed Shah, is held at Haseena Moin Hall, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 6pm.



HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

***** This is a powerful day for you because the Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with Mars in the early morning, then Pluto, the Sun, Mercury and finally Venus by tonight. It's as if you won the lottery. Relations with others will be successful, upbeat and endearing. Lucky you! Tonight: You win!

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** You make a fabulous impression on everyone today, in no small part because of something you might do behind the scenes. Either you are pulling the strings or someone else is. Whatever the case, five planets are casting you in a favorable spotlight. Bosses love you! Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

***** Grab every chance to travel or do anything that is a change of scenery that's exciting and adventurous! These opportunities are not the only ways that you are blessed today. You can explore new avenues in publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Go for it! Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Actually, some know personal details about your private life. Don't worry though, because all the planets at the top of your chart are beautifully connected and supportive to you, especially in practical and financial ways. Tonight: You're admired.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

***** Conversations with friends, partners and spouses are rewarding, stimulating and meaningful today. You might make plans to travel. Whatever you discuss will lead to something entertaining and rewarding. This is a favorable day for you; make the most of it! Tonight: Explore!

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** This is a productive day, which is why you can get a lot done -- and do so very happily. Financial negotiations will go well. If you need anything (especially in practical terms), ask for it, because it will be forthcoming. Co-workers are supportive. Go after what you want! Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Accept invitations to socialize and party today. Get out and meet friends for coffee, lunch, dinner or any occasion. Enjoy the theater, movies, sports events and fun activities with kids. Romantic adventures will delight you. Dress up and go out. Enjoy! Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Stock the fridge and invite friends or family over today. Before you do that, you might tackle a few repairs or tweak your digs to make things look more attractive. Family conversations are likely. Everything to do with home and family is favorable for you today. Live it up! Tonight: Get organized.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

***** You feel the bustle today! Get out and talk to people. Enjoy short trips. Shop, linger, explore. Meet new faces, see new places. It's a lovely day to learn something new. In all your conversations, you'll be entertaining and convincing. Tonight: Socialize!

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** Financial discussions will go well today, especially if they relate to family matters or anything to do with home and real estate. You might choose to "hide" or relax at home today, but some of you will shop online or work from home to boost your assets and earnings. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

***** Today five planets are in your sign dancing beautifully with the Moon. It doesn't get better than this. Things will go your way. Be aware you have the advantage; plus, you're persuasive and powerful. Go after what you want -- you will get it! Tonight: Discussions.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** This is a feel-good day! Shopping, spending money, earning money or exploring moneymaking ideas is blessed. Trust your ability to attract money to you or, perhaps, favors and practical support will come your way. Ka-ching! Tonight: Check your possessions.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

Partner bids One Heart, and the next player passes. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ K962 ♥ 72 ♦ KJ943 ♣ 84
2. ♠ KQJ98432 ♥ 86 ♦ J2 ♣ 9
3. ♠ KJ5 ♥ 875 ♦ K984 ♣ A63
4. ♠ 94 ♥ 9742 ♦ 85 ♣ AQJ63

* * *

1. One spade. Your spades are admittedly weak, but there are other factors to consider besides the strength of the suit. You can't bid two diamonds because that would promise 10 or more points, and you can't bid one notrump because you might miss a spade fit.

The one-spade response allows a spade fit to be found and also makes it possible to play the hand in one notrump if that is partner's next bid. One spade promises no more than six points, though it might, of course, be based on many more.

2. Four spades. This is clearly the most descriptive bid you can make. It indicates a hand with which you might have opened four spades preemptively as dealer and thus has a completely different meaning than two spades, which would be a jump-shift implying a possible slam.

Four spades also gives partner the best picture of what might be needed to make a slam if he happens to have a hand containing sufficient strength in the other three suits.

3. Two diamonds. Here the problem is how to deal with a hand too good for one notrump or two hearts, which would indicate six to 10 points, and not good enough for two notrump, which would show enough points for game, or three hearts, which would promise better hearts.

When confronted by this problem, it is necessary to bid a side suit first, intending to follow partner's assumed minimum rebid with a further bid that invites, but does not commit, the partnership to game.

4. Two hearts. It is far better to raise partner at once than to misrepresent your strength by responding with two clubs. The heart raise shows six to 10 points, which is exactly what you have. A two-club bid followed by a raise in hearts at your next turn would imply more in the way of points than you have -- as in the preceding problem. Whenever possible, it is best to limit yourself to a specific point-count range at once and let partner carry on from there.

Tomorrow: The vanishing trick.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5309

4	7	3	5	8	2	1	6	9
8	6	5	7	9	1	4	2	3
1	2	9	6	3	4	5	7	8
3	8	2	4	7	6	9	1	5
9	1	6	8	2	5	7	3	4
7	5	4	9	1	3	6	8	2
5	9	1	2	6	8	3	4	7
2	3	7	1	4	9	8	5	6
6	4	8	3	5	7	2	9	1

Tricky — B5309

3	8	7	2	5	6	9	1	4
2	9	6	4	3	1	5	8	7
1	4	5	9	7	8	2	6	3
9	7	1	6	8	2	3	4	5
4	6	2	3	9	5	1	7	8
8	5	3	1	4	7	6	2	9
5	2	4	7	1	9	8	3	6
7	1	9	8	6	3	4	5	2
6	3	8	5	2	4	7	9	1